



**Saint Thomas Aquinas
Regional Catholic High School**

2017-18

SCHEDULING GUIDE



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2017-18 Scheduling Guide

Introduction

The information in this guide is important to both you, as a student, and your parents. In order for St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School to provide you with the best possible education, you must take the responsibility of choosing classes that will help you achieve your goals. This guide will provide you with graduation requirements, scheduling requirements, course summaries, and other important information. Read this guide carefully and discuss your schedule with your parents. It is important that you make selections that meet state requirements and that are helpful in meeting your individual needs. Since you are not allowed to change teachers or courses **after the August 15th drop date**, you should give serious consideration to your selections.

During the spring semester, students select their courses for the coming year with the help of their individual counselor. The "Course Request" form is sent home for parent approval and signature. Classes are only changed in extenuating circumstances.

A counselor is assigned to students at St. Thomas Aquinas to help them during their high school career. Counselors follow grade levels with their students every year. A student or parent may schedule a conference with a counselor for any reason. These areas may include academic, career, or personal/social concerns. Strict confidentiality is maintained unless the student reports a desire to harm self, harm someone else, or that he is being harmed by someone.

Counselors

Mr. Nicholas Stoulig
2017-2018 Sophomores & Juniors
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Ms. Lindsey Hernandez
2017-2018 Freshmen & Seniors
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St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or athletic and other school administered programs.



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2017-18 Scheduling Guide

TOPS

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive program of state scholarships and one of the most innovative and progressive student assistance programs in the nation. It is recommended that students and their parents visit the TOPS website at www.osfa.state.la.us.

TOPS is a series of merit-based scholarships that award amounts equal to tuition, some including a stipend, at a state public college, university, community college, or technical school, or the weighted average of public school tuition at certain in-state private colleges.

TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards: 8 semesters of college tuition

TOPS Tech Award: 2 years of technical college tuition

To qualify, students must follow the TOPS core curriculum and meet the GPA and ACT requirements. Students apply for TOPS by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1st of their senior year.

Overview of TOPS Requirements			
	TOPS Opportunity	TOPS Performance	TOPS Honors
4 year college	X	X	X
2 year college	X	X	X
Technical college	X	X	X
TOPS Core Curriculum	19 units	19 units	19 units
TOPS GPA	2.5	3.0	3.0
ACT	20	23	27

Standardized Testing Sequence

9th grade – Aspire

10th grade – Aspire

11th grade – ACT, PSAT, SAT

12th grade – repeat above tests as needed



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2017-18 Scheduling Guide

LA College Diploma / TOPS Core Curriculum for High School graduates of 2018 and thereafter

UNITS	COURSES ¹
ENGLISH = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT	English I
1 UNIT	English II
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature & Performance)
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature & Performance)
MATH = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT	Algebra I
1 UNIT	Geometry
1 UNIT	Algebra II
	(Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, & Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence)
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions & Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL), Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL), AP Calculus BC, Probability & Statistics or AP Statistics, IB Further Mathematics HL, IB Mathematics HL
SCIENCE = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT	Biology I
1 UNIT	Chemistry I
2 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology
SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1/2 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
1/2 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics
	(one unit of Civics may be substituted for the two 1/2 units above)
2 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics

LOSFA



TOPS Core Curriculum continued on next page



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2017-18 Scheduling Guide

TOPS Core Curriculum for 2018 + graduates continued:

UNITS	COURSES
FOREIGN LANGUAGE = 2 UNITS	
	Foreign Language, both units in same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, and IB Spanish V
ART = 1 UNIT	
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theater; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV;
TOTAL = 19 UNITS	

- 1 GIFTED COURSES: Any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE) policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a "Gifted Course" and shall fulfill the core curriculum.

Beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2014-15 and graduating in the 2017-18 school year and thereafter, the calculation of the TOPS Core Curriculum grade point average (GPA) will use a five (5.00) point grading scale for grades earned in certain Advanced Placement (AP) courses, International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, Gifted Courses, and Dual Enrollment courses used to complete the TOPS Core Curriculum. At this time, BESE and the Board of Regents have not designated the courses that will be calculated on the five (5.00) scale.¹ For such courses, five quality points will be assigned to the letter grade of "A", four quality points assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality points assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "F". Note that students earning credit in courses graded on the five (5.00) point scale may earn a grade point average on the TOPS Core Curriculum that exceeds 4.00.

¹ Courses approved for the five (5.00) point scale will be noted in updates to this document

This core curriculum is accurate as of the date of publication and includes courses listed in TOPS statute and those determined to be equivalent by the Louisiana Board of Regents and BESE.

LO SFA



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Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School

2017-18 Scheduling Guide

Information about Honors & AP Courses

What are Honors Courses?

Honors courses are developed locally by high school teachers to help meet the needs of accelerated students. Honors classes offer the same curriculum as non-honors classes but are more challenging. Honors courses are faster-paced and cover topics more in-depth.

****These courses carry a weighted grade of 1.25, multiplied by numerical average at end of course.***

What are Advanced Placement (AP) Courses?

AP courses give students access to rigorous college-level work. AP students build confidence and learn the essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success. For more information, visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home>.

****These courses carry a weighted grade of 1.5, multiplied by numerical average at end of course.***

What are advantages of taking Honors & AP Courses?

- Weighted averages in Honors and AP courses are utilized in determining your placement in the final ranking of seniors prior to graduation.
- You can gain an edge in the college admission process.
 - ✦ *College admission officers look for students who take rigorous courses. It shows them that you like to challenge yourself.*
- You can develop study habits that will prepare you for college.
 - ✦ *College courses are more rigorous than standard high school classes. By taking the more challenging honors classes in high school, you will be better prepared to succeed in college.*
- Studies have shown that the rigor of a student's high school curriculum is the single best predictor of success in college.
 - ✦ *Working hard in high school establishes habits that make the transition to college smoother.*
- You will challenge yourself in more demanding classes.
- You have a chance to study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- You will be taking classes with others who want to achieve and learn.
- By making it through an AP course and scoring successfully on the related AP Exam, you can save on college expenses. Currently, more than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the country offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam scores.

Who is eligible to take an honors or AP course?

Previous subject course grades, standardized test scores, and eligibility exams will be reviewed to determine a student's placement in Honors and/or AP courses.



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2017-18 Scheduling Guide

Dual Enrollment with Southeastern Louisiana University

Courses offered at STA	SLU Course Name	STA Course Name
GBIO 151	General Biology I	Bio II H
COMM 211	Introduction to Public Speaking	Speech I
ENGL 101	Freshman Composition I	Work done outside of class time
ENGL 102	Freshman Composition II	Work done outside of class time
MATH 161	College Algebra	Alg III
SPAN 101	Elementary Spanish I	Spanish III or IV H
SPAN 102	Elementary Spanish II	Spanish III or IV H

Requirements for Enrollment:

- Students must currently be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade
- Students must be on track for completing the Louisiana College Diploma curriculum
- Students must have an Aspire or ACT composite score of at least 18 and the required sub-scores:

Math

19 Math

English/Speech

18 English

Spanish

19 Math or 18 English

Biology

19 Math and 18 English

Cost of Program

The tuition rate for 2017-2018 is \$175 per 3 hour course.

Grading

Students will receive letter grades in their STA class and in their SLU class. These grades may or may not be the same. Letter grades received in the SLU class will be an A, B, C, D, F, or W.

****The SLU grades will be part of the student's permanent college record if requested by the student.

Websites:

SLU General Catalog:

http://www.selu.edu/admin/rec_reg/university_catalogue/

LSU General Catalog:

<http://ww.lsu.edu/catalogs/2012/008courses.shtml>

LSU Tiger Transfer Tables

<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/admissions/become-a-tiger-2/transfer-students/>

Board of Regents Articulation Matrix

<http://regents.louisiana.gov/master-course-articulation-matrix-ay-2013-2014/>



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18

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NOTE: The Diocese of Baton Rouge per Bishop Muench changed Theology textbooks for the 2016-17 school year. STA has implemented this change in Theology I and II. Theology III and IV will change in upcoming years.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Theology is the study of God and God's relationship with humans and the rest of creation. The Theology program at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School is designed to prepare students for full participation in the wisdom, worship, and works of the Church. Theology is an academic subject and is required of all STA students for four years.

Theology I:

Jesus Christ: God's Revelation to the World (Semester 1)

This thoroughly revised and enhanced edition introduces the story of salvation as it unfolds in both the Old Testament and New Testament. The text provides a thorough plan for reading and studying the Bible and gives students a general knowledge and appreciation of Sacred Scripture through which they encounter Jesus Christ. The text follows Course I of the new curriculum framework.

Jesus Christ: His Mission and Ministry (Semester 2)

This thoroughly revised and enhanced edition deepens the study of Jesus, highlighting key events in his earthly ministry while unpacking his teachings about God the Father, the Trinity, Mary, and the Holy Spirit. Students learn that the goal of discipleship is a life of grace and holiness and a share of God's everlasting Kingdom. This text follows Course II of the new curriculum framework.

This is a required course for freshmen.

1 credit

Theology II:

Jesus Christ and the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic (Semester 1)

This enhanced edition places the foundations of the Church in their historical and scriptural context, and goes further by guiding students to recognize the sacred nature of the Church and engaging them to more actively participate in the living Body of Christ and serve as witnesses to the sacred Gospel in the world today. This text follows Course III of the new curriculum framework.

Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation

This enhanced edition unpacks the meaning of God's sacred and mysterious plan from creation, onward to the consequences of the fall and the promise of a Savior, while ultimately focusing on the Life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This text follows Course IV of the new curriculum framework.

This is a required course for sophomores.

1 credit



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Theology III: History of the Church

This course presents an account of Christian History based solidly on historical fact and viewed through the eyes of faith. It presents the History of the Catholic Church from Pentecost through the present.

This is a required course for juniors.

1 credit

Theology IV: Our Moral Life in Christ

Our Moral Life in Christ presents the more complex theological concepts of the Catholic Faith. With particular emphasis on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and *Veritatis Splendor*, this book provides the formation necessary to live a moral life and a foundation to pursue advanced theological studies.

This is a required course for seniors.

1 credit

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

To graduate from STA, students need 4 credits in English. English courses include the study of literature, grammar, vocabulary, and opportunities for writing. The core curriculum is designed so that each course builds on the previous one, especially in the areas of vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

English I

In English I, the focus is on the fundamentals of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, sentence structure, and essay development, including the argumentative persuasive essay. The literature studied includes short stories, poems, and Shakespearean drama through the study of *Romeo and Juliet*. In addition, students study ACT vocabulary and read a variety of approved novels as independent study.

This is a required course for freshmen.

1 credit

English II

As a study of World Literature, students read short stories, plays, novels, and poetry, identifying literary concepts in such works. A poetry unit familiarizes students with poetic devices and figures of speech as well as with the various types of poetry. *Julius Caesar* continues the study of Shakespeare. Students will be required to obtain 3 novels for in and out of class study. The writing assignments include expository and compare/contrast essays as well as short stories and research reports. Library skills and the process of writing are taught as part of the course as well as a review of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I

This is a required course for sophomores.

1 credit

English II Honors

This course is the study of World Literature. Reading comprehension/analysis and composition skills are the primary focus of the course including a review of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students are required to utilize the textbook selection, novels by a foreign author, and technology in order that they may reflect, in writing, on the literature and authors being examined. A research paper utilizing a critical review is also required.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I

This is a sophomore level course.

1 credit



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2016-17**

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English III

The primary focus of this course is on writing essays, including argumentative, persuasive, and literary analysis. The second focus of this course is a survey of American literature, including historical documents and at least one dramatic play. In addition, students read a variety of approved novels as independent study. Students also study weekly ACT vocabulary.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English II

This is a required course for juniors.

1 credit

English III Honors

This course will cover, through an historical approach, a variety of literary genres written by American authors, with attention given to the major themes of American Literature, including concepts such as the American Dream. The main focus of this class is mastering expository writing in preparation for college-level writing. Students will be required to compose a variety of longer essays (including the personal narrative, descriptive, proposing solutions, argumentative/persuasive, and literature analysis) in addition to weekly writing in response to the literature. Vocabulary will be studied and assessed consistently throughout the year, in addition to grammar, which will be reviewed in the context of the writing process. As an honors course, students will practice the art of close reading of literature, discussion, and analysis through the Socratic Circle.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English II H

This is a junior level course.

1 credit

English III AP : Language & Composition

AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Students will engage in formal class discussions based on reading assignments. Additionally, students read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. **Students completing this course are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.** College credit is awarded at most colleges in the U.S. for a passing grade on this exam. The fee for the exam is approximately **\$95**. Enrollment is by invitation only and will be based upon established guidelines.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III H

This is a junior level course.

1 credit

English IV

This course will cover, through an historical approach, a variety of literary genres written by British authors, with attention given to major themes of British Literature. Students will read a Shakespeare tragedy as part of their study. In addition, students will be required to compose a variety of longer essays (including an advertising analysis, character analysis, various forms of technical writing, and a research paper) and participate in weekly discussion and writing in response to the literature. Vocabulary will be studied and assessed consistently throughout the year, in addition to grammar, which will be reviewed in the context of the writing process. As part of college and career readiness, students will participate in career studies throughout the year and create a research presentation before graduation.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III

This is a required course for seniors.

1 credit



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English IV AP : Literature & Composition

In the AP English Literature and Composition course, students will read works from the three main genres (fiction, poetry, and drama) and respond to those readings in formal class discussions and through analytical, critical, and evaluative essays. Students will write shorter, timed, in-class essays as well as full-length analysis papers. **Students completing this course are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.** College credit is awarded at most colleges in the U.S. for a passing grade on this exam. The fee for the exam is approximately **\$95**. Enrollment is by invitation only and will be based upon established guidelines.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III H
This is a senior level course.*

1 credit

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

To graduate from STA, four credits from the Math Department are needed. There are several options for our students to obtain the necessary credits. At each level, math studies build on the skills and concepts previously presented. Mathematical vocabulary and symbolism are emphasized. Calculators may be required.

Algebra I

This course includes properties of numbers, polynomials, graphing linear equations, inequalities, radicals, functions, factoring, and quadratic equations. Applied problem solving, reasoning skills, and analytical thinking are included.

This is a required freshman level course.

1 credit

Geometry

Geometry covers the fundamentals of Euclidean geometry, including parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent and similar polygons, circles, deductive reasoning, and logical thinking. Students construct plane figures, and determine area and volume. As an introduction to trigonometry, they also study right triangles and the basic trigonometric functions. A calculator, compass, and straight edge are required tools.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.
This is a required sophomore level course.*

1 credit

Geometry Honors

This course covers the same material as Geometry described above but also includes extra topics utilizing higher-level thinking skills and more challenging problems. A calculator, compass, and straight edge are required tools. Admission is contingent upon standardized test scores, the grade in Algebra I, and teacher recommendation.

*Prerequisite: A in Algebra I at STA or pass the Geometry Honors Placement Test.
This is a required sophomore level course.*

1 credit



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18

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Algebra II

Students build on the basics of Algebra I doing more in-depth work on polynomials and quadratic equations. The study of axioms, matrices, open sentences, irrational, complex and imaginary numbers, as well as systems of equations, is included in the course.

Prerequisite: Completion of Geometry.

This is a required junior level course.

1 credit

Algebra II Honors

This course includes the topics mentioned above in Algebra II, but studies the topics in greater depth. Some extra topics, such as conic sections, introduction to logs, and advanced work with matrices are included, and higher-level thinking skills are used. This course is open to sophomores and juniors based on standardized test scores, the grade in the last math class, and teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: A or B in Geometry Honors or an A in Algebra I and Geometry.

This is a junior level course.

1 credit

Algebra III H

This course is a study of families of functions and their graphs. Topics include linear, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations. Functions will be used to model and solve application-based problems. A Laboratory fee is required for this course. This course is a dual enrollment course which has a separate fee of \$175.

Prerequisite: An A or B in Algebra II or a score of 19 or above on the Mathematics section of the ACT with a composite ACT score of 18. Dual enrollment is required.

This is a junior or senior elective.

1 credit

Algebra III

Topics in this course include analyzing functions using tables, graphs, equations, and verbal expression. Functions analyzed include rational, radical, power, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric. Trigonometry, including the Laws of Sines and Cosines, is applied. Univariate and Bivariate data is statistically analyzed and applied. A graphing calculator is required.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This is a junior or senior elective & may be taken concurrently with a statistics course.

1 credit

Advanced Math Honors

This course is a study of families of functions and their graphs. Topics include linear, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, as well as systems of equations. Geometric and analytic development of trigonometric and circular functions, including their uses in problem-solving are emphasized. Functions will be used to model and solve application-based problems. A lab fee is required for this course.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II with an A, Algebra II H with an A or B and a score of 23 or above on the Mathematics section of the ACT with a composite ACT of 18.

This is a junior/senior elective, however because this course is prerequisite for AP Calculus, preference is given to juniors who qualify.

1 credit



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18

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Probability and Statistics

This course emphasizes modeling with data. Topics include descriptive and inferential statistics, probability and regression.

Prerequisite: completion of Algebra II

This is a junior/senior level course.

1 credit

AP Calculus

This is a college level course. Students must have a solid background in Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry. Topics of study include limit theory, differential, and integral calculus. Both the mechanics and the theory of Calculus are emphasized. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May; the fee is approximately \$95.** College credit may be awarded at universities upon earning a passing grade on the exam. A graphing calculator is required.

Prerequisite: Advanced Math I H

This is a senior elective.

1 credit

AP Statistics

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students who successfully complete the course and national AP exam may receive credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. Technology access is required, including a graphing calculator. **The fee for the required AP exam is approximately \$95.**

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra II.

The course can be taken concurrently with another Advanced Math course or AP Calculus.

This is a junior or senior level elective.

1 credit

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

To graduate from STA students need 4 credits in science. The objective of the science curriculum is to assist students in developing inquiry-based learning skills and using the Scientific Method. In each of the science courses, reading for interpretation, comprehension, conducting lab experiments and writing lab reports, scientific observations, critical thinking, and drawing conclusions are emphasized during hands-on laboratory investigations.

Biology I

This is a general course that acquaints the students with the integral parts of the life sciences. The class goes into a very detailed study of cell biology. This study includes biochemistry and genetics. There is a more general overview of the taxonomy, anatomy, and physiology of plants and animals. Basic ecology is the last topic studied. Labs provide hands-on experience of the course material.

This is a required class for freshmen.

1 credit



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Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Physical Science

In this course, students are taught the basic knowledge necessary to be successful in advanced science courses. Students are introduced to the Scientific Method as well as basic properties of matter and energy, laying the groundwork for further work in Physics and Chemistry.

1 credit

Physical Science Honors

In this course, students are taught the basic knowledge necessary to be successful in advanced science courses. Students are introduced to the Scientific Method as well as basic properties of matter and energy, laying the groundwork for further work in Physics and Chemistry. Topics covered in this course are similar to those in Physical Science; however, they are covered in more depth using more higher-level critical thinking skills and more challenging applications.

1 credit

Chemistry I

General concepts and problem solving are emphasized. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations are used to present and supplement the material. Some of the concepts covered in the class include: matter and its properties, measurements and conversions, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical bonding, equations and reactions, stoichiometry, and gas laws.

Prerequisites: successful completion of Biology 1.

This is a sophomore / junior level course.

1 credit

Chemistry I Honors

General concepts and problem solving are emphasized. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations are used to present and supplement the material. Some of the concepts covered in the class include: matter and its properties, measurements and conversions, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical bonding, equations and reactions, stoichiometry, and gas laws. Topics covered in this course are similar to those in Chemistry I; however, they are covered in more depth using more higher-level critical thinking skills and more challenging applications. Outside assignments will be required in this course.

Prerequisites: successful completion of Biology 1 with a final grade of A.

This is a sophomore / junior level course.

1 credit

Biology II Honors

Principles of Biology from the cellular level including biochemistry, cell biology, metabolism, photosynthesis, molecular biology, and genetics. This course is designed for students planning to major in Biology or related discipline.

Prerequisites: Student must complete Biology 1 and Chemistry with a grade of A or B. Students must be enrolled into SLU's Dual Enrollment program for GBIO 151.

This is an elective course for juniors or seniors.

1 credit



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18

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AP Chemistry II

While this course includes some topics mentioned in Chemistry I but that are covered in greater depth, it is primarily a second-year course and will cover new topics, including chemical equilibrium, kinetics, thermochemistry, and electrochemistry. An emphasis will be placed on conceptual reasoning and higher-level thinking, though mathematical calculations will be featured. Laboratory assignments and demonstrations are heavily utilized. **Students completing this course are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May. The fee is approximately \$95.**

This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisites: Grade of A or B in Chemistry I, strong background in mathematics.

This is a junior or senior level course.

1 credit

Environmental Science

This course is the study of the environment from a global perspective. Students learn how things live and work in different kinds of ecosystems. They are introduced to a decision-making model that helps them weigh the environmental, economic, cultural, and social aspects of each issue so that factors other than pure science are taken into account. The examinations will test the student's analytical ability and the labs provide a hands-on experience of the course material.

Prerequisite: successful completion of Biology I.

This is an elective course for seniors.

1 credit

Physics

This course is designed to give students an introduction to Physics. Topics covered will include motion, forces, work, energy, momentum, collisions, rotational dynamics, gravity, sound, optics, waves, electricity, and magnetism. Higher-level thinking skills are utilized. Laboratory experiences, demonstrations, and problem-solving strategies are used in making contemporary applications in general, electro-, nuclear, and industrial processes. Admission into this course is based on previous performance, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Strong background in mathematics

This is an elective course for seniors.

1 credit

AP Physics

This is a college-level Honors course designed to mirror a first-semester college course in Physics. Topics covered will include motion, forces, work, energy, momentum, collisions, rotational dynamics, gravity, vibrations, and waves. Higher-level thinking skills are utilized. Laboratory experiences and demonstrations are heavily used to reinforce concepts presented in lecture. A major component of this course involves graphical interpretation; students must therefore be able to create, analyze, and draw conclusions from graphs. Admission into this course is based on previous performance, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation. **Students taking this class are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May for a fee of \$95.**

Prerequisite: Strong background in mathematics

This is an elective course for seniors.

1 credit



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The objective of the social studies department is to instill in students an enthusiasm for the study of liberal arts in general and social studies. To graduate from St. Thomas Aquinas students need 4 credits in Social Studies, where Theology III can count as one of those credits.

World Geography

World Geography is the study of the physical and cultural geographies of many nations of the Earth. The class will study the 7 continents and their climates, past and present maps, and the cultures of major countries while making comparisons to the United States. Students will develop an understanding of various current global topics through the development of essential communication skills.

This is a required freshman level course.

1 credit

World History

World History is a course that traces the beginning of the human race, civilization, and technology to the present day. Some of the topics covered in this class include: Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, the Renaissance, Reformation, World War I, the Russian Revolution, and World War II.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

American History

American History is a survey course beginning with the events leading up to the Civil War and ending with current day events that will impact the future of our nation. The objective of the course is for the student to gain a more clear understanding of the history that impacts his or her life today. Some of the topics covered in this class include: the Civil War, Imperialism, World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement and America's status in the world today as the pre-eminent super power.

This is a required junior level course.

1 credit

AP United States History

AP United States History is a course covering the entirety of United States history, from exploration and colonial settlement through the current era. It is open to Juniors and will focus on the use of primary source readings, pictures, and articles for the students to interpret and develop critical thinking essays, as well as individual student research and readings. Tests and document-based questions will be routinely given in accordance with AP standards. **Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. College credit is awarded at most colleges for a passing grade on this exam. The fee for the exam is \$95 and must be paid upon admission to the class.**

This is a junior level course.

1 credit

AP United States Government and Politics

This course introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning, assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments. Tests and document-based questions will be routinely given in accordance with AP standards. **Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. The fee for the exam is \$95 and must be paid upon admission to the class.**

This is a senior level course.

1 credit



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Civics

Civics is a course that explains how government works at the national, state, and local levels. A brief history of US government will be presented along with a study of the constitution (both national and state) and the rights of the government according to our system of checks and balances. This course also addresses the principles of the US economy. Students study such topics as capitalism, supply and demand, budgeting, credit, and the stock market.

This is a required senior class.

1 credit

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

To graduate from STA, our students are required to take two consecutive years of the same foreign language. The primary goal of the foreign language program is to help students develop proficiency in oral communication, to acquire linguistic skills, and to appreciate literature.

Spanish I

Oral proficiency is emphasized in the first year. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish are introduced. Basic vocabulary, grammatical pattern, and verb tenses are presented through dialogues and grammatical exercises.

1 credit

Spanish II

This course is a continuation of Spanish I placing emphasis on oral communication, writing, and reading in Spanish. The varied cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples and their countries is explored through lectures and reading materials.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

1 credit

Spanish III H / IV H

This course emphasizes advanced communication skills in four areas: listening comprehension, speaking, writing, and reading. The elements of pronunciation, grammar, syntax, and vocabulary activities are presented throughout the duration of the course. Students who meet the requirements for Dual Enrollment in Spanish 101 and 102 will be able to enroll in this program via Southeastern Louisiana University.

Prerequisite: A or B in Spanish II / III

These are elective courses.

1 credit



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The objective of the Health and Physical Education Department is to provide our students with a positive atmosphere and experiences that will foster a lifelong interest in recreational sports participation, cardio-vascular and muscular fitness, and daily health habits that will contribute to spiritual, mental, and physical well-being.

Students are required to complete 1.5 units of PE and 0.5 unit of Health for graduation from STA.

Physical Education I, II, III, IV

The focus on activities in Physical Education classes is on fitness and wellness. Also included are units on basketball, soccer, volleyball, and lacrosse. Evaluation is based on participation, effort, and improvement.

PE I is required for Freshmen.

1 credit

PE II is required of Sophomores.

0.5 credit

PE III/IV

1 credit

Health Education

Health education provides students with information that gives them the ability to make wise decisions in the areas of drug and tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and food choices. Other topics studied are stress management, CPR, and first aid. This course alternates with Physical Education.

This is a required sophomore level course.

0.5 credit

Strength & Conditioning

Strength & Conditioning class will provide an opportunity for development of strength and conditioning for various sports and fitness related activities. Free weights, exercise machines, and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed. Proper techniques and safety precautions will be emphasized. A plan to achieve goals will be developed and implemented during this year-long course. This course CANNOT replace the requirement for PE I or PE II/Health.

1 credit

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Arts are an integral part of the study of foreign language, history, and literature. In order to grow as intellectuals, students should experience and appreciate art in all its forms.

Applied Music I

This course offers students a comprehensive approach to music education. Students will receive instruction in vocal or instrumental music, as fundamental training in the full range of music theory and literacy. The goal of this course is to inspire creativity and strengthen musical abilities; therefore, students must have prior vocal or instrumental experience.

This course is an elective for students of all grade levels with prior music ability.

1 credit



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Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Art I

This one-year course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while developing drawing skills and techniques. Studio experiences in the classroom will give students opportunities to experience a variety of media (pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, and watercolor) while developing student's individual style and creative problem-solving skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to respond, to analyze and to interpret their own artwork and the work of others through discussions, critiques, and writings. Each Day/Week students will learn about historic staples of the Art world and why they are important and will be evaluated periodically on these works.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

Art II

An advanced level course in drawing and painting with an emphasis on developing a greater depth of understanding of art and application of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to their work in a variety of media. Studio experiences include drawing, painting, illustration, and printmaking projects. In the second semester, students will demonstrate their progress in the course by developing a body of work and organizing a portfolio. Each Day/Week students will learn about historic staples of the Art world and why they are important and will be evaluated periodically on these works.

Prerequisite: Art I with an average of 85% or higher

This is an elective course for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

1 credit

Art III

Students are expected to become independent thinkers and to apply their knowledge of the Elements and Principles to their work (everything that happens on a two-dimensional surface, regardless of media). There will be a ceramics component to Art III: students will be introduced to the basics and terminology of Ceramics. Students will submit portfolios each nine weeks (5 or more pieces) to the teacher for evaluation and advice. Each Day/Week students will learn about historic staples of the Art world and why they are important and will be evaluated periodically on these works.

Prerequisite: Art II with an average of 90% or higher

This is an elective course for juniors and seniors.

1 credit

Art IV

In Art IV students will propose their own individual projects (8 in total) each throughout the year in preparation for their Senior Art Show. The projects will be geared towards furthering student's understanding of their own "artistic style". There will be a ceramics component to Art IV: students will have the opportunity to learn ceramics skills ranging from basic to advanced. The year will be used to help students compose a professional portfolio and better hone their ability to intelligently analyze and speak about Art in any format. Each Day/Week students will learn about historic staples of the Art world and why they are important and will be evaluated periodically on these works.

Prerequisite: Art III with an average of 90% or higher.

This is an elective course for seniors.

1 credit

Choir I, II, III, IV

This course emphasizes developing one's ability to sing by improving pitch and vocal technique. There will be instruction on reading music.

This course is an elective for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. *1 credit*



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Fine Arts Survey

This course is a survey of the arts approached through the four disciplines of music, visual arts, dance, and drama/theatre. The course covers the development of fine arts beginning from pre-historic man up to the 21st century.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

Guitar I, II, III, IV

This course is a beginner-intermediate guitar course with an emphasis on improving the player's ability to read and comprehend music.

This course is an elective for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

1 credit

Piano I, II, III, IV

This course is an introduction to basic piano techniques. Emphasis will be on scales, chords, and beginning to read music.

This course is an elective for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

1 credit

Theatre I

Theatrical Skills and Drama: Students will polish their theater knowledge through activities which guide their learning about character development, voice expression, stage terminology, and theater history. Class members will perform scenes from various periods in theatrical history, write plays, and explore characters and space through improvisation. Throughout the year we will explore the human condition, acting styles, and genres from modern drama times all the way to Shakespeare of the twentieth century. It is imperative that students come prepared and on time daily due to the group nature of theater. Students will gain technical theater knowledge through activities that guide their learning about set design, set construction, painting techniques, lighting, costume design, and more. Class members will learn how a play transforms from written word to performance by helping to design and build the fall musical and the spring play. Throughout the year we will be using power tools and various electrical equipment.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

ELECTIVES

Anatomy and Physiology

Anatomy and Physiology is a laboratory science course that includes an in-depth study of the body systems that maintain homeostasis from anatomical and physiological perspectives. The areas covered will include medical terminology, basic chemistry, cell biology, tissues, and the 11 organ systems (integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, lymphatic, digestive, respiratory, urinary, and reproductive). Dissection of a cat, fetal pig, and other appropriate organs will compliment course work. The course is recommended for students interested in pursuing a degree in the health science fields.

Prerequisites: successful completion of Biology 1.

1 credit



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Broadcasting I/II/III

Broadcasting offers students the opportunity to experience the many facets of digital media. Students will work on television, radio, and social media projects. The projects will cover a variety of areas such as writing, on-air experience, camera work, lighting, graphic design, editing, etc. Broadcasting requires students to work STA events to produce live broadcasts.

Broadcasting is an elective course open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Broadcasting II is a continuation of skills attained in Broadcasting I and III is a continuation of II.

Broadcasting II Prerequisite: Broadcasting I

Broadcasting III Prerequisite: Broadcasting II

1 credit

Computer Science

This course, intended as a first Computer Science course, uses programming languages to create applets, interactive stories, games, and animations. Students foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real world problems. Students develop problem-solving and reasoning skills that are the foundation of computer science. **The fee for this course is \$100.**

This is an elective course open to all students.

1 credit

Family and Consumer Science I/II/III/IV

This is a life skills course that touches on facets of family and consumer science. Students are taught how to sew by hand, cross-stitch, operate sewing machines, iron and press. Students learn kitchen safety and nutrition, cooking skills, baking, cake decorating. Students learn how to set a buffet table for entertaining, semi-formal dinner table, and proper table etiquette. Hands-on activities are used to help guide students in life skills after high school. Students learn to apply their skills through community service.

FCS is an elective course open to all students. FCS II / III / IV are continuations of skills attained in FCS I.

FCS II Prerequisite: FCS I; FCS III Prerequisite: FCS II; FCS IV Prerequisite: FCS III

1 credit

Forensics

The emphasis of the class will be hands-on discovery of crime scene investigation. Topics will include processing crime scenes, and collecting and analyzing evidence, including fingerprints, glass, soil, hairs, fibers, paint, drugs, and blood. Field trips will be required.

Prerequisite: Previously or currently taking Chemistry I, and strong background in mathematics.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

Psychology

This course focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphases will be placed on research methods, stages in childhood and adolescence, how the brain works, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders.

This is an elective course open to all students.

1 credit



**Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
Course Descriptions / Curriculum Guide 2017-18**

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Publications I – Yearbook

This course is an overview of print publications and includes writing; exploration of photography including how to take, crop and size photos; a study of editing skills; instructions on how to write headlines; and lessons on layout and design of yearbook pages. Students also learn some management and business skills with ad sales and deadlines. Practical applications of skills taught are realized through production of the school yearbook, *VERITAS*.

This is an elective course for juniors and seniors.

1 credit

Publications II – Yearbook

This course is an extension of Publications I. Editing will be a central focus of this course. Increased emphasis is placed on providing leadership to assure that deadlines are met.

Prerequisite: Complete Publications I with an A.

This is an elective course for seniors.

1 credit

Robotics I

Using robots, this course will cover the fundamentals of problem solving, program design, algorithms, and programming using a high-level language. A robot is an embedded system of software and hardware. Programming and building robots applies Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts. This course introduces the fundamental concepts of programming and robotics. A \$40 fee will be assessed for the course.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

Robotics II

Students will build and program robots in laboratory sessions. This is an extension of Robotics I with emphasis on development of computer programs. It will continue the study of STEM concepts. A \$40 fee will be assessed for the course.

Robotics I is a prerequisite to this course.

This is an elective course.

1 credit

Speech I

This course is designed to help the student develop and master techniques of excellent public speaking in the areas of writing, volume, diction, pacing, and content. The student will prepare and perform various speeches and also various types of dramatics (monologues, improvisations, etc.) during the course. Focus will be placed on the Introduction Speech, Informative Speech, Ceremonial Speech, and Debate strategies. Most of the assignments require research. Students who meet the criteria for SLU Dual Enrollment can opt to earn credit for COMM 211.

This is an elective course open to all. Preference will be given to students who are eligible for Dual Enrollment.

1 credit

Weight Training I, II, III, IV

This course offers instruction and practice in proper techniques of the development of muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility. Emphasis is placed on the application of scientific principles and methods used to build, improve and maintain proper muscular fitness. Also, body composition and nutrition for health and fitness are discussed. Students with pre-existing medical conditions that would prevent them from successful participation in this course should not enroll.

This is an elective course open to all students.

1 credit